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The Blue Ridge Review is published periodically for Soldiers, civilian employees and family members of the 80th Division (IT). It is an official publication under the provisions of AR 360-1, and published by the 80th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office.

We gladly welcome article submissions, photographs and story ideas. Contact: 80th Division (IT) PAO 6700 Strathmore Rd. Richmond, VA 23237 Phone: (804) 271-5843 Email: 80THDSCPAO@usar.army.mil

The editor reserves the right to edit submitted copy for clarity and propriety.

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2007

Mobilized troops train new recruits

While some of our Soldiers continue to adjust to family life after a year-long deployment, others are still miles away from their loved ones.

Our Soldiers who are mobilized state-side are spread out all over the map from the east coast to the west. From Camp Parks, Calif., to Fort Dix, N.J. the 80th Division is well represented and it seems that one group of Soldiers – mobilized at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. – are in it for the long haul because most have asked to extend their tour of duty.

2LT Jason Freeman, who mobilized from the 4/318, called the transformation of civilians to MPs amazing.

“When you can actually see a group of people ranging from 17-41 years old mold as a team and accomplish the things we expect them to do in just 19 weeks it provides a sense of validation for our jobs.”

Freeman and others were mobilized at different times and although they all don’t work together, they do seem to have one common goal in mind: to develop the new recruits into Soldiers who are “Army Strong.”



Drill Sgt. Sean Celestine shows a recruit how to position her arm during Combatives instruction. This class shows troops how to defend themselves during hand-to-hand combat.

Soldier awarded Legion of Merit

Col. (Ret.) Paul Hoppes, who retired as the Deputy Chief of Staff of Force Development, received his much awaited Legion of Merit award earlier this year.

Hoppes said that his Army career provided him with friendships that will last the test of time.

“I do not miss the work,

but I really miss the people in the 80th Division and, I could not have done this without the support of my wife, Nancy,” he said.

Hoppes’ wife and employer were thanked for having supported his military career for more than 30 years. Hoppes’ employer was also given a certificate of appreciation.



Col. (Ret.) Paul Hoppes’ wife and employer join in the celebration of his receiving the Legion of Merit from the CG earlier this year.

Competition yields top Soldiers



The CSMs grill SPC Christopher Amos who is sitting in the "hot seat."

Congratulations to this year's winners of the 80th Division Soldier of the Year, SPC Christopher Amos; Drill Sergeant of the Year, SFC Shahpour John Eskandary; and NCO of the Year, SGT Jeremy Stifler.

The Soldiers were recently honored with monetary gifts and mementos from the Division leadership at the Virginia Beach conference in February.

For three days during the competition, Soldiers per-



formed various Warrior Task Training challenges, endured high-speed physical training, and answered a barrage of current events and soldier skills questions.

After the Division-level competition, the Soldiers move on to the Army-wide challenge.

Strengthening your relationships

"...Learn (or brush up on) how to do those things which keep your marriage fun and passionate!"



If you are a Soldier who is about to be mobilized or was mobilized after 9/11, consider these character-building opportunities.

The first opportunity, Strong Bonds Marriage Retreat, is for couples. The Army pays for travel, lodging and meals and puts you on a paid status while you attend a fun, educational

retreat and learn (or brush up on) how to do those things which keep your marriage fun and passionate!

The second opportunity is the Single Soldiers Retreat. Again, the Army puts you on paid status. If you are single, tired of dead-end relationships or just want to learn a great way to create

healthy, safe, romantic relationships, this retreat is made for you! Premarital Interpersonal Choices and Knowledge (PICK) is a fun, proven approach to following your heart without losing your head in a romantic relationship.

Contact the 99th RRC Chaplain's Office at (412) 604-8175 or 8172.

CG awards Family Readiness staff

MG Evans recognizes the volunteer services of FRG members.



Two 80th Division volunteers were recognized at a ceremony in Culpeper, Va., by MG David L. Evans and Army Reserve Ambassador Anthony Reed. Dottie McDowney and Steven Clarke were presented the Civilian Patriotic Service Awards for their ser-

vice.

The award consists of a certificate and lapel pin, and was given for the significant contribution that Clarke and McDowney made to the families and soldiers of the Culpeper 3/317th Battalion.

The ceremony was conducted during a Culpeper Chamber of Commerce

social gathering inside the hangar of the National Capitol Squadron chapter of the Commemorative Air Force.

MG Evans also presented the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce with a plaque for their continued support of the 80th Division and the United States Army Reserve."

Transformation for Reserve's Training System

As the 80th Division (Institutional Training) winds down from its first OCONUS deployment since World War II, it faces the challenge of transformation. Decision Point-74 ordered a sweeping change of the Army Reserve training system.

The six Divisions (IT) in the Army Reserve system will transform into three training commands. Currently each Division (IT) conducts training through Professional Development Education, Initial Entry Training, and The Army School System. After the transformation, the 108th U.S. Army Reserve Initial Entry Training Command, headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., will only train IET. The 84th U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Command will take over all PDE. Finally, the 80th U.S. Army Reserve Schools Command will assume all TASS instruction, including Military Occupational Specialty qualification courses and Noncommissioned Officer Education System courses.

The Army's transformation to meet modern requirements means that units can expect frequent deployments, while Soldiers need increasingly complex skill sets. This led to a need for changes in the training base. The transformed TASS works under a decentralized system and will deliver more complex yet up-to-date training at geographic locations to suit the students' needs.

The new 80th Schools Command's geographic area of responsibility will include the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and Europe. Three divisions will fall under the command, and tentatively are planned as follows: 102nd Division (Maneuver Support), based at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; 94th Division (Force Sustainment), headquartered at Fort Lee, Va.; and 100th Division (Operations Support), with headquarters at Fort Knox, Ky.

The new Quartermaster Brigade, consisting of five battalions,

will be commanded by a Quartermaster-qualified officer. The Brigade HQ will be in Charleston, W.V., and battalions are slated for Salt Lake City, Utah; Des Moines, Iowa; Decatur, Ga.; Columbus, Ohio; and Fort Pickett, Va., with a detachment at Lodi, N.J. In addition to the five battalions, quartermaster instruction will also occur year-round at five new TASS Training Centers and at other locations as needed. The new TTCs will be staffed by Active Guard and Reserve instructors. However, during surge periods, Reserve Soldiers will supplement those instructors. Reserve instructors will also teach classes at battalion and other geographic locations as needed to meet the needs of students.

Battalions under the new structure will have three companies. Company A and the battalion headquarters will be co-located, while Companies B and C will be located at the TTCs. TTCs will be designed as full-service facilities: students will eat, sleep, and get their instruction at the same building. In addition to the AGR instructors, TTCs will be staffed by other AGR Soldiers and Military Technicians. The primary mission of the TTCs is to provide 2x2 instruction (e.g., two back-to-back blocks of instruction, each two weeks long, equivalent to traditional instruction of seven or eight months of instruction on Battle Assembly weekends followed by a two-week Annual Training period). Reserve Component instructors will continue to teach under the traditional system of instruction during Individual Duty for Training Weekends followed by two weeks of instruction, normally in the summer.

What difference will students see as training transforms from the old system to the new? There will be some minor changes, as all MOS training is consolidated into one command. The number of classes taught during IDT weekends will increase to pre-September 2001 levels, and the number of 2x2 classes will decrease.



Training will be increasingly more relevant to the mission of warfighters today and in the future. Having full-time instructors at TTCs means more flexibility in class start dates, and also increases accessibility for Active Component Soldiers who will to reclassify to a new MOS.

The new Initial Entry Training command will have two subordinate divisions, one at Fort Benning and one at Fort Sill. Their divisions will be geographically aligned with current Basic Combat Training posts – Forts Benning, Sill, Knox, Jackson, and Lewis.

Restructuring for the Schools Command and IET Command begins in Fiscal Year 07 and both should have Full Operational Capability before the start of FY 10. Also by FY10, TRADOC will assume operational control over these two commands.

This is an exciting but challenging task for leaders within the current training divisions. However, the future payoff – an Army even better trained to accomplish its mission – will be worth the effort.

PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS



Promotions

HHC, HQ; Shimabukuro, Jaime; 1LT > CPT
 HQ (MOB'D); Adams, Larry; SFC > MSG
 HQ (MOB'D); Oester, Karl; SFC > MSG
 HQ (MOB'D); Nixon, Vincent; SFC > MSG
 1st BDE, HQ; Williams, Clifton; SSG > SFC
 1st BDE; Ford, Kyle; 1LT > CPT
 1st BDE, 1/318; Dicken, William; SSG > SFC
 1st BDE, 3/318; Walton, Karen; 1LT > CPT
 1st BDE, 4/318; Berry, Kevin; 1LT > CPT
 1st BDE, 4/318; Smith, Dillian; SSG > SFC
 2nd BDE, 1/317; Abdul, Aziz; 1LT > CPT
 2nd BDE, 1/317; Lyle, David; SSG > SFC
 2nd BDE, 1/317; Pitt, Denekka; 1LT > CPT
 2nd BDE, 1/317; Rodriguez, Valentin; SSG > SFC
 2nd BDE, 2/317; Wilson, Jacob; 1LT > CPT
 3rd BDE, 1/80; Caravell, James; SFC > MSG
 3rd BDE, 1/80; Lee, AJ; SFC > MSG
 3rd BDE, 1/80; Smay, Tedman; SFC > MSG
 3rd BDE, 3/80; Wright, Debora; SSG > SFC
 3rd BDE, 5/80; Poland, Brian; SFC > MSG
 4th BDE, HQ; Dagpin, William; SSG > SFC
 4th BDE; Robey, Angela; CW1 > CW2
 4th BDE, 6/80; Garnett, Ray; SSG > SFC
 4th BDE, 7/80; Harston, Philip; SSG > SFC
 4th BDE, 7/80; Ingelsby, James; SFC > MSG
 4th BDE, 8/80; Roche, Jennifer; SSG > SFC
 4th BDE, 8/80; Turner, Luicana; SSG > SFC
 7th BDE, 1/319; Townsend, Rennee; CW1 > CW2

Retirements

HHC, HQ; SSG Robinson, Linda
 1st BDE, 3/318; SFC Williams, Larry
 2nd BDE, 1/317; MSG Holloway, McKinley Jr
 2nd BDE, 1/317; SFC Williams, Cassandra
 2nd BDE, 2/320; 1SG Danison, Andrew
 3rd BDE, HHD; SGT Dornes, Mark
 3rd BDE, 4/80; SFC Shipe, Charles
 4th BDE, 6/80; SFC Coleman-Rowell, Crystal
 4th BDE, 9/80; SSG Manes, Benjamin
 4th BDE, 9/80; MSG Wilkinson, Edward
 7th BDE, 3/319; MSG Blake, Shonnette

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



An amateur genealogical researcher discovered that his great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture is this inscription:

"Remus Starr; horse thief; sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887; robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives. Convicted and hanged 1889."

In a Family History subsequently written by the researcher, Remus's picture is cropped so that all that's seen is a head shot. The accompanying biographical sketch is as follows:

"Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1885, he

devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

Isn't it interesting how often words can paint a completely different picture from reality; from the truth. We use words to communicate, but in reality our actions speak louder than our words. Let your actions today be a reflection of the truth in your heart and in your words. An ancient philosopher once said something like this, "Share the Lord with others, and if necessary, use words." Today, may we share the Lord with others through our actions and perhaps even with our words.

-CH (COL) Combee

News and Upcoming Events

Marriage and Singles Retreats

Strong Bonds Marriage Retreat
 25-27 May, Alexandria, Va.
 22-24 June, Charleston, W.V.
 3-5 August, Seven Springs, Pa.
 Single Soldiers Retreat
 13-15 July, Baltimore, Md.
 Contact 99th RRC Chaplain Office
 SSG Stevie Mick (412) 604-8175
 CH (LTC) Mark Sachs (412) 604-8172

Help Record Division History

If you were deployed/mobilized in support of OIF and want to donate pictures and/or memoirs for 80th Division Historical records, contact the Division PAO at (804) 271-5843.

Army-wide Reenlistment Ceremony

SGT Bryanne Moore, of the 2/317th will participate in the National Reenlistment Ceremony on the Capitol Steps in Washington D.C., 23 April at 1500. This event is open to the public.

Get ESGR help online

Members of the National Guard and Reserve can now request assistance online from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) ombudsmen for employment issues arising from military service or mobilization.

Guardsmen and Reservists can visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil and select the link, "USERRA Complaint Request" on the right side of the page.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act Complaint Request allows Soldiers the opportunity to initiate an ombudsman case online at any time of the day or night thereby making ESGR more accessible to Guardsmen and Reservists.